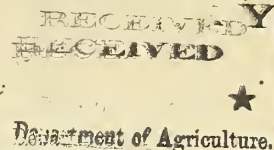


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RATEKIN SEED HOUSE

SHENANDOAH, IOWA



313
Pioneers---oldest and largest Seed Corn Growers in Iowa—a record of 33 years in the business as a specialty. We grow all the leading and most choice varieties---pure bred and highest grade. Nothing sent out showing a germinating test of less than 96 to 100 percent.

33RD ANNOUNCEMENT

The foundation of the Ratekin Seed House was laid and begun by Joseph R. Ratekin during the winter of 1883-4. The season of 1883 being one of the most abnormal—unfavorable that has visited the agricultural state since, until the season of 1915—the coldest and wettest experienced within our recollection. By reason of the unusual conditions that prevailed during that year it caused a Seed Corn famine all over the Central Western states. Fortunately, in more ways than one, Mr. Ratekin, being a farmer and large corn grower at that time, had about ten thousand bushels of early sound well matured corn in his cribs. Farmers were hunting and driving over the country in every direction in search of seed corn, same as they did in many places one year ago. Wherever corn could be found that was of good vitality and could be relied upon to grow, the question of price did not stand in the way. And why should it when a bushel of corn plants seven to eight acres of ground? And if of superior variety will produce 10 to 20 bushels better yield per acre than inferior scrub varieties, or seed that is of low, weak vitality.

As soon as it became known that Mr. Ratekin had an improved variety of corn that would grow farmers began to flock from every direction to purchase seed from him—some of them driving forty and fifty miles for their seed. In many places good seed corn sold for five, six and seven dollars per bushel, but notwithstanding this Mr. Ratekin had but one price to all, \$1.25 per bushel for carefully selected seed, as long as the supply held out.

Encouraged and inspired by this experience, Mr. Ratekin took up the business of growing improved varieties of corn as a specialty for seed purposes and a little later moved from his farm to Shenandoah, and took up a general line of all kinds and varieties of farm and garden seeds, which has been continued up to the present time under the firm name of J. R. Ratekin & Son, and later under the name of the Ratekin Seed House, now incorporated with a capital stock of \$50,000.00. But through all stages of this period the growing and handling of improved varieties of seed corn has been the leading feature and specialty of this old established house, and for the past twenty-five years has enjoyed an extensive retail mail order trade on Seed Corn from every state in the union. In addition we have supplied a large number of the leading seed houses and seed dealers, with their seed corn for their local and mail order trade, and perhaps handle more seed corn each year than any half dozen Growers or Seed Corn concerns in this great banner corn growing state of Iowa.

Nishnabotna Valley---Egypt of America

SHENANDOAH is located in Page county, in the extreme Southwestern Iowa, 20 miles east from the Nebraska state line and the same distance from the Missouri line, in the rich, fertile valley of the Nishnabotna River, which is noted as the greatest corn growing district in the world, and where corn attains its greatest perfection. This is no idle boast. These claims are not only established but conceded by all who have ever made a trip down this beautiful valley—the Egypt of America. Bayard Taylor, the famous poet, author, journalist and traveler, crossed this part of the country years ago, before Shenandoah existed and when this part of Iowa was almost uninhabited. At that time Mr. Taylor gazed across the valley of the Nishnabotna and declared the landscape the most beautiful his eyes had ever beheld. He called it the garden spot of the world. The rich soil extends down six and eight feet in depth, full of life-giving qualities which produce the wonderful corn crops it grows.

Where We Are Located

SHENANDOAH is located 485 miles due west of Chicago, on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, 366 miles northwest of St. Louis and fifty miles southeast of Omaha and Council Bluffs on the main line of the Wabash Railroad, and 162 miles north of Kansas City and 190 miles from St. Joseph on Burlington Routes. It is also the terminus of the Keokuk and Western Railroad; thus we have the benefit of three through trunk lines reaching all of the leading cities and railroad centers of the country direct. This county—Page county—attained the name and distinction of producing more corn—area considered—some years ago, than any other territory in the world. Twenty-two by twenty-four miles square, produced SIX MILLION, TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO BUSHELS OF CORN as shown by the United States census report—over three hundred and twenty bushels of corn for each man, woman and child resident of the county. This equaled the combined production of all six the New England states, and in addition equal to more corn than any one of ten other states produced the same year.

It is the policy and aim of the Ratekin Seed House to send out nothing except pure varieties of Seed Corn—Corn that have not only been selected with great care, but from those strains that have shown by their ability, by test, to have proven the earliest and most productive in yield. We also want to assure every patron and customer that patronizes us of the most cordial and courteous treatment as well as an "HONEST SQUARE DEAL." It is our motto to put forth, and make good, every courtesy and suggestion—to answer every question, if in doubt, that you may ask, or to give you any further information we can, we not only have a personal and practical experience behind us of fifty years on the farm, but have at our command the experiences of thousands of farmers from all parts of the country who have patronized us and planted our seeds of different sorts and varieties. With this personal experience and that of those thousands at our command, we can often assist our customers in the selection of varieties we think and know to be best suited and adapted to their locality, climate and soil as well as purposes and requirements. (Always tell us as much about the land, seasons, time of planting, time required for maturity as you can and if we can help you or serve you in your selections we will be only too glad to do so.) We strive in every possible way to help and assist our customer to grow bigger and better yields and crops from our seeds than the fellow who purchases his seeds elsewhere. Again on this basis we earnestly solicit your order and your trade, also that of your friends and neighbors. Our Big Farm and Garden Seed Catalog, giving full descriptions of all kinds of farm, grass, garden and flower seeds is at your command. IT IS FREE. It is yours for the asking.

200 BUSHELS. Baltimore, City, Md., Jan. 8—I have planted your seed corn since 1907, and I am now raising 200 bushels of corn per acre. Please send me your catalogue, so that I can select and make up my order for what seed I want for the coming season. Thanking you in advance for this favor, I am,

Truly yours, JESSE DeMOTT.

CORN IS KING

Corn is indeed King. It is the greatest money crop the world has ever known. The United States not only leads all other countries, but produces three-fourths of all the corn that is grown in all parts of the world combined. The government estimate of the crop made Nov. 1, 1914, was TWO BILLION, SEVEN HUNDRED AND SIX MILLIONS BUSHEL, indicating a total value for the crop of ONE BILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS, Iowa leading as the chief corn producing state with three hundred eighty-nine million bushels, seventy-four million bushels more than Illinois, its nearest competitor. (Iowa also leading all other states in the production of oats, by twenty-seven million bushels more than Illinois, the next highest in the production of oats.)

Corn employs more people and contributes more to the wealth of this country than any other cereal—more than cotton, wheat and oats combined. To haul Iowa's vast corn crop of 1914 to market it would have taken 389,000 freight cars, each 40 feet long and holding 1,000 bushels. There are 132 cars in a train a mile long, therefore it would take a train of cars 2,950 miles long to haul the corn grown in Iowa. That would mean a train extending from Cleveland, Ohio, to San Francisco. It would take 7,780,000 wagons, each holding 50 bushels, to deliver this corn to the grain elevators. If each wagon and team occupied 20 feet it would make a train of vehicles 29,474 miles long. It is 25,000 miles around the world, therefore this wagon train would encircle this old earth ONE TIME and 4,000 miles besides.

GOOD SEED CORN AND THOROUGHbred VARIETIES ARE THE KEY TO THE HARVEST

PROF. P. G. HOLDEN of the Iowa STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AMES, IOWA, recognized as the best authority and greatest Seed Corn Expert in the United States, says: "I went to the corn fields of one hundred farmers in Story County, Iowa, where the State Agricultural College is located, and where the farmers were in their fields planting corn, and took a quantity of seed corn, such as they were planting, from one hundred different corn planter boxes, and took it to the grounds of the State Experimental Station at the Agricultural College, and planted it in our trial fields. Some of it made ONLY TWENTY BUSHEL, WHILE OTHER LOTS YIELDED ALMOST ONE HUNDRED BUSHEL PER ACRE. This wide difference WAS ALL IN THE SEED AND VARIETIES. The land and cultivation and other methods all are identically alike. The expense of growing was the same. The BEST SEED AND VARIETIES produced fully FOUR TIMES AS MUCH CORN of better quality than did the other lots of INFERIOR SEED."

WHAT IS GOOD SEED CORN?

TO BE FIRST CLASS SEED CORN it should be a standard variety of superior quality in yield—early and sound maturity—corn that has demonstrated its ability to outyield other strains of the same variety. It should show a high per cent of germination, thus insuring an even and perfect stand. It should be purchased from a practical and scientific corn breeder, one who possesses a knowledge and experience in the growing and judging, as well as the preparation of seed in all its details.

The Great Importance of Thoroughbred Varieties of Seed Corn

The corn crop of the United States is shown by the fact that of 105,000,000 acres, or more than 60 per cent of all, is devoted to corn alone, the value of which averaged on a five years' stretch \$1,000,000, about two times the annual value of the cotton crop, and twice as much as the wheat crop of this country during the same period, which were next in their order to the corn crop. Thus corn is the leading crop of the United States and I may again be permitted to say that three-fourths of all of the corn grown in the world is produced in this country. Yet it is a fact that with proper conditions and cultivation the same number of acres could be easily made to produce twice as many bushels as are now being obtained, and I believe you will agree with me when I tell you the average yield per acre during the years I speak of was but \$24.09, and when we consider that many hundreds and thousands of farmers grow an average of sixty to ninety bushels per acre, and in some instances grow from 100 to 200 bushels per acre it stands to reason that there is very much of the corn crop that falls largely below the average.

Everybody knows that good seed is preferable to that of poor quality. No argument is necessary to convince people that pure thoroughbred Varieties of Seed Corn, like far manimals is much to be preferred over an amalgamation that means all kinds of grief to the farmer. It does not require any convincing argument to show farmers the necessity of procuring the very best Seed and Varieties in order that a good stand may be possible and a large yield at harvest time assured. This is not intended to convey any new information but is intended to brush aside any carelessness or indifference that may prevail and to stimulate a vigorous inquiry. The quality of seed means everything to the farmer whose whole season's work is predicated upon the procurement of good seed. Indifference to this fact may lead to disastrous results.

The matter of good seed is of too much importance to permit cheapness to enter into a consideration of the subject. The price ought to be a secondary consideration.

IS IT WORTH IT? The average price of our seed corn is less than \$3.00 a bushel, including bag. A bushel of seed corn will plant from six to eight acres. To use our seed will cost, say, thirty cents an acre more than if common crib or home grown corn is planted. It is, therefore, evident that if our seed produces one bushel more to the acre, mind ONLY ONE BUSHEL MORE, than the home seed that the entire cost of the seed and freight is paid for by this extra yield. The corn we sell is grown from seed which has been brought to such a degree of perfection as to render it of almost priceless value. It represents the labor of many years and the expenditure of a very large sum of money. It has behind it the history of BIG CROPS. We KNOW that when we plant it that barring flood or drouth it will yield heavily. At the proper time we go through our fields and detassel. When the corn comes to our warehouse it is hand-picked down to such a point as to give us on the average ten or twenty bushels to the acre of seed that goes to our customers; the balance is sold for feed. IS THIS CARE WORTH THIRTY CENTS AN ACRE TO ANYONE PLANTING CORN?

GERMINATION. We thoroughly test every lot of corn before we send it out to our customers. At the present writing we have just completed testing thirty separate lots of seed corn. Two tests were made of each lot. EVERY LOT, EXCEPT ONE, GERMINATED 96 TO 100 PER CENT, AND THAT ONE GREW 94 PER CENT. Never in the history of our business have we had better germinating corn in our warehouse. But wherever you may buy you should KNOW FOR YOURSELF that your seed corn grows before you plant it. We sell our seed under the following

GUARANTEE: We guarantee that it may be tested promptly on arrival, and if it does not germinate to the entire satisfaction of the purchaser it shall be returned within 12 days from time received at our expense and the money paid for same will be immediately refunded without question.

WHEN TO ORDER. It is of great advantage to both our customers and ourselves if orders are placed. This applies not only to corn, but to all seeds. After April 1st several important varieties are usually sold out and cannot be replaced. The "spring rush" is then on; employees become wearied with the long strain of night and day work, orders and shipments are more likely to be delayed, and errors are more likely to occur. In our customers' interests, therefore, as well as our own, we urge EARLY ORDERS.

BY JOSEPH R. RATEKIN, SHENANDOAH, IOWA, FEBRUARY 10, 1917.

DIAMOND JOE'S BIG EARLY WHITE



Uniform and Thoroughbred---Has Captivated the Entire Corn World

WON "MEDAL OF MERIT" FOR BEST RECORD AND LARGEST YIELDS AT PANAMA-PACIFIC EXPOSITION. It has also won more notable prizes and premiums, everywhere for big yields since its introduction, than any variety White or Yellow, that we've knowledge of. It is not especially a handsome corn. It was not bred for handsome show points, but for early maturity and heaviest yield—most bushels per acre in shortest length of time. It is a corn that is adapted to the North, South, East and West—everywhere that corn can be successfully grown. It cannot be excelled if equaled anywhere for a general farm crop. It is drouth-proof—resists dry, hot weather better than any other variety. It was originated by the Ratekin Seed House, and first introduced in 1905, since which time it has become known in all sections of the country, having been thoroly tested and tried out in every state in the Union. Everywhere it has proven a wonderful success and an enormous yielder, maturing as early as the earliest and often out-yielding any of them two to one, in fact has a record of over 200 bushels shelled corn to the acre and a record in hundreds of instances of over 100 bushels per acre—won prize medal at Panama-Pacific Exposition for best record and largest yields—see illustration above. These ears photographed, are of course select ears, but hundreds and thousands of them may be found in every field of this splendid variety. If you are looking for the best, most productive, heaviest yielding early maturing variety of white corn, known or grown, don't look any further. Stop right here! Don't hesitate to plant every acre and hill your corn crop to it. PRICE: Pk., 85 cts; ½ bu., \$1.60; 1 bu., \$3.00; 2 bu., \$2.95 per bu.; 5 bu. and over, \$2.90; bags included f. o. b. Shenandoah. If wanted in ear crated add 75 cts. per bu. to foregoing prices.

Diamond Joe's Big Early White Wins Medal of Merit, Also \$100 in Gold

Adopting methods of intense farming, Ex-Representative A. Webster Butler of Plymouth County, whose farm is at Cary Hill, won the "Medal of Merit" at the Panama-Pacific Exposition for the best record in corn growing in the state. His record was 132.9-10 bushels of corn per acre, which is not only the best record ever made in Massachusetts, but in New England, and is exceeded by but few in the Central Western Corn Belt states. Four times Mr. Butler has entered state competition in corn-growing, and won first prize. Mr. Butler boasts of his record on Stock Beets of 385 bushels grown on one-fourth acre of ground. Mr. Butler is an active, scientific farmer. He does not try to see how many acres he can grow, but on his 55-acre farm tries to see how much he can make each acre produce.—Brockton Independent.

133 BUSHEL. Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa. Plymouth County, Mass., Jan. 12, 1914. Gentlemen: I wish to extend to you, my good wishes, for a prosperous New Year. I planted the seeds I ordered from you last year, with the best of results. The Fertilizing Company did not give a prize on corn this year, but gave a cash prize on seed potatoes, and as a result I was awarded a cash prize of \$100.00 in gold on a yield of 363 bushels to the acre. I planted your Diamond Joe's corn, and from it I filled a 76 ton silo, and it was the very best I ever put into a silo. From my record of 1909 I grew 86 bushels of Flint corn to the acre, valued at \$1.00; 1910 I grew 133 bushels of Diamond Joe's Big White, valued at \$1.00 per bushel, and 1911, 13 1-2 bushels, valued at \$1.00, and in 1912 I obtained 381 bushels of Mangel Wurtzel Beets from one-fourth acre. Again wishing you every good wish, I am,
Truly yours, A. W. BUTLER.

All Mr. Butler's prize winning records on corn growing and yields were made from seed of which was procured from the Ratekin Seed House, he having been one of our regular and valued customers for the past 10 years.—Ratekin's Seed House.

APPRECIATIVE LETTERS FROM SOME OF OUR CUSTOMERS—Continued.

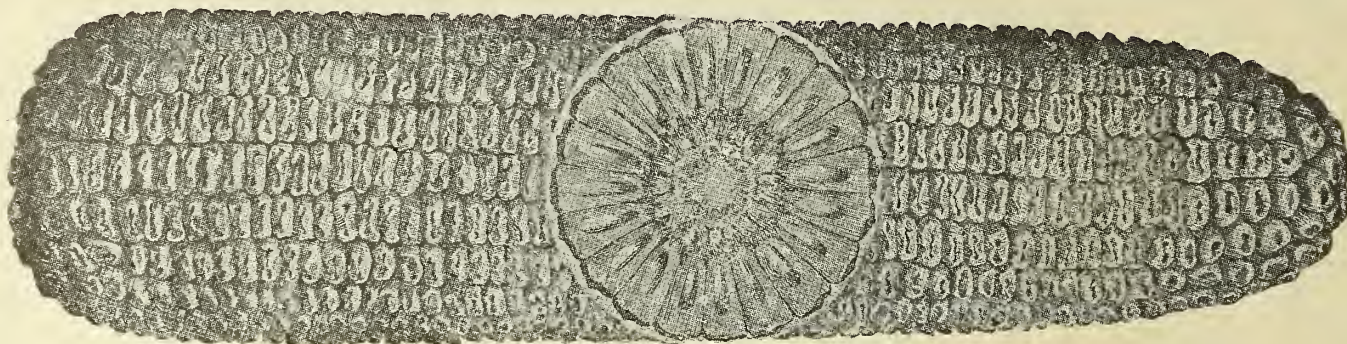
121 BUSHEL PER ACRE. Findlay, Ohio, Feb. 30, 1915. Last spring I sent you for seven pounds DIAMOND JOE'S BIG EARLY WHITE, which I planted on one acre of good ground and from it I raised ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE BUSHEL OF FINE CORN, and can sell all I will have to spare, for seed, at \$2.00 per bushel. I shall want some more seeds for the coming year and will remember to send to you for them.
T. C. HARDWICK.

100 BUSHEL ON ONE ACRE. Willoughby, Ohio, Jan. 25, 1915. I sent to you and got seven pounds DIAMOND JOE CORN last year and planted it on one acre of good ground, gave it good cultivation and from it grew 100 bushels. It's without doubt the best corn I ever saw. Now I want some grasses and clovers. Please send me latest prices.
FRED A. ROM.

207 BUSHEL. Farmers and others have been attracted by the exhibition of corn that has been in the window at Dilleys store for some time. It was grown by J. W. Dale, and two acres produced 207 bushels and 50 pounds, which is perhaps the largest yield of corn ever known in this community. Mr. Dale says the moles took many of the seed, and but for this fact the yield would have been even better. In gathering the corn great care was taken to keep th top and bottom ears, main crop, sucker ears and nubbin separate. The choicest of the main crop Mr. Dale will save for seed.

The corn is white, long even ears, and is known as "Ratekin's Diamond Joe." Two hundred and fifty pounds of fertilizer was used to the acre. The ground was in good order for planting, but no extra work was done in the way of cultivation.—Mitchell Tribune, Indiana.

RATEKIN'S PURE GENUINE IOWA SILVER MINE, White Corn



RATEKIN'S IOWA SILVER MINE---A WORLD WIDE FAVORITE WHITE CORN

This wonderful white dent corn is known and grown more extensively than any White Corn that has ever been introduced. It is adapted to a wide range of conditions and is a corn for the north, south, east and west and a variety that everywhere gladdens the heart and fills the corncribs at harvest time; makes good where other sorts fail. It is not a new variety, but is one of the best known sorts. On account of its great popularity, and wonderful record made and maintained, there are thousands of bushels of common scrub white corn offered and sold every year under the name and label of IOWA SILVER MINE, which is no more akin to Iowa Silver Mine than a mule is to a rabbit, and is incomparable in yield, also early maturity, with RATEKIN'S PURE GENUINE STOCK that has been kept pure, highly bred and improved from year to year for the past 18 years.

There is scarcely a township or neighborhood anywhere that corn is grown but what some of your neighbors can tell you about "RATEKIN'S IOWA SILVER MINE" and the splendid results obtained from it. We do not deem it necessary, if space would permit, to print even a partial list of the thousands of testimonials we have received from the extreme northern line of Iowa and that latitude running east and west, and from there south to the Gulf Coast States. They would make a book solidly set half as large as a family bible.

DESCRIPTION. Stalk—Medium in height, ranging from seven to ten feet high (dependent upon the land, hill or bottom), very leafy broad blades and a lot of them. The type even and uniform; ears run from 9 to 12 inches long, 16 to 20 rows, pure white kernels, solidly set on a small cob. The cob being small, it dries out rapidly while the corn is ripening. Thus it is ready for feeding and marketing earlier than other varieties. It is a wonderful drouth resister, and stands the hot climate in the South, where they are affected with these difficulties better than other sorts. In addition our seed corn when planted in the South RIPENS fully three to FOUR WEEKS EARLIER than native corn. In short, OUR PURE BRED IOWA SILVERMINE matures in from ninety to one hundred days, with absolute assurance of an increased yield from ten to forty bushels per acre more than ordinary varieties.

READ PRIZE RECORD: At one fair ten best ears took first prize, ten smaller ears second prize. Afterwards ten best took sweepstakes over both white and yellow. Total premiums \$95.00. Captured prize offered in 1896 for largest yield against all other sort, kind or color. In 1899 the Agricultural Society of Illinois offered three prizes for largest yield. Iowa Silver Mine was awarded all of them, 196, 176 and 154 bushels per acre. It has produced 215 bushels in Iowa, 211 in Indiana, 201 in Arkansas, 196 in Illinois, 145 in Nebraska, 144 in Ohio, 137 bushels per acre in Texas. IT'S THE CORN FOR EVERYWHERE. No other corn of any color can compare to above prices.

PRICE: Postage by mail, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), \$1.25. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: peck 85c; bu., \$2.75; 2 bu. or more at \$2.60; 5 bu. or more at \$2.50. Bags free. If wanted in ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices.

IOWA SILVER MINE WHITE. Owing to the superior adaptability of RATEKIN'S IOWA SILVER MINE White Corn to a wide range of conditions, climate, soil and seasons, wet and dry, long and short crop period, we have no hesitation about recommending this variety of corn everywhere. As we have sold and sent out fully a million bushels of it during the last 18 years, more than half of which we sent to the Southern States where white corn is much more generally planted than yellow varieties. Silver Mine, being of greater tenacity, has greater resistance against dry scorching hot weather than other varieties. It also does better than yellow varieties, on old or thin land, and is as near drouth-proof as corn can be; at the same time when planted on good strong ground it will produce as many or more bushels per acre as any variety there is grown.

Our Iowa Silver Mine Corn is so well known all over the south we feel it unnecessary to go into historical details, as our seed has been planted all over the North and South for the past 18 years, and in some places longer, grown in practically every county and in most every neighborhood. In fact, it has been the salvation of hundreds and thousands of farmers everywhere, producing good crops where other sorts failed. Our select strains of Iowa grown Silver Mine is as near thoroughbred as corn can be. It grows to the height of 7, 8, and 10 feet, dependent upon the land, hill or bottom, is free from barren stalks—every stalk producing one and two good ears. This is one of its superior yielding qualities; ears run from 8 to 12 inches long containing from 16 to 20 rows, deep grains, on a small cob, drying out quickly and early. In the north it matures in 100 days. In the South, in 90 days and fully three to four weeks ahead of native varieties; thus making itself early in the season while the moisture and strength remains in the ground, and before the dry hot weather and wind sets in. Hundreds of our customers have told us personally and also written us that by reason of the early maturity of this corn in dry hot seasons they have raised and obtained 30, 40, 50 and 60 bushels from our Iowa Silver Mine per acre when they did not get 10 bushels from native, home-grown seed, in fact in many instances when their native corn was a total failure and they got nothing, not even good fodder.

We have a large number of distributing points all over the South, where dealers handle our Seed Corn in carload lots, and who in turn sell it to local dealers in most every town or hamlet and we wish you would send to your nearest dealer who handles our seed, or write direct to us and your inquiries will have our prompt attention. We will advise you who is the nearest dealer to you and who will fill your order promptly. If there is any other farm or garden seeds you want we shall be more than pleased to receive your orders for them here, assuring you in advance that we will treat you in a manner that will please you. Lastly, don't hesitate to write us at any time when we can be of service to you.

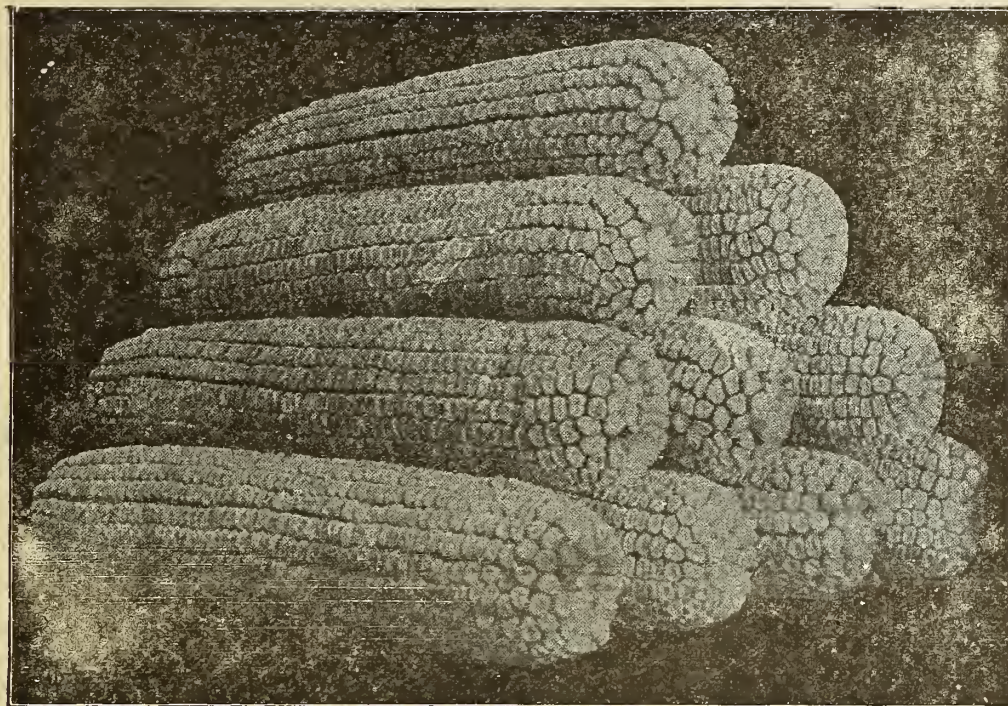
"IOWA SILVER MINE—LOOKS FINE." Shawnee County, Kans., Sept. 4, 1915 Ratekin's Seed House: Gentlemen, you ask your customers to write you about their crops and I shall accept this invitation. By referring to your books you will see I ordered some of your Gold Standard Leaming, "Diamond Joe's Big White" and "Iowa Silver Mine" seed corn last spring, and I now wish to say it all proved quite satisfactory, but I am inclined to give first preference to your "Iowa Silver Mine." This corn sure looks fine. The stalks are very uniform and each and every one has a good ear on it, some of them two, and I am sure it is just what I want. I have made corn a special study for 15 years, having spent four years of my life at the Kansas State Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kans. I have had considerable experience in the study of corn growing, selecting and judging of corn; thus you will see I have made corn my special hobby, and for this reason it has been my aim to get something that is true to type and suitably adapted to our locality, and your "Silver Mine" seems to meet the requirements and fill the bill. I trust you will find pleasure in answering my questions and that I may hear from you at your convenience.

Most Respectfully yours,

E. C. AUSHERMAN.

RATEKIN'S PRIDE OF NISHNA YELLOW DENT

FAMOUS FOR ITS UNIFORM LARGE EARS, HIGH YIELDING QUALITIES; ALSO ITS EARLY MATURITY.



PRIDE OF NISHNA. This variety of Yellow Dent Corn was the first variety originated by Mr. J. R. Ratekin forty-eight years ago, when he first settled in southwestern Iowa on a farm, 15 years before engaging in the seed business, and was the first yellow corn introduced by us thirty-three years ago, when we began the seed business. At that time, in making selection of ears for photographic illustration, we did not have in mind present-day ideas of some of the so-called seed corn specialists, but simply went to our cornfield and selected ears of medium size that fairly represented variations, type and character. Everyone knows that about all human beings look somewhat alike, but seldom are there any two that look so nearly alike but what you can distinguish one from the other. The same rule applies to ears of corn, and out of the thousands of bushels we have grown and handled we do not remember to have found two ears of corn when laid side by side but what we could find a difference somewhere. In looking at selection, however, for the above illustration of ears we have tried to match them as nearly as we could, but when you look upon a beautiful illustration like the above don't be carried away with the idea that every ear of corn you get or that you grow from it is going to be just like the picture you see, but from a field of this corn you can select plenty of ears just as good, and as nearly perfect as they represent, and by saving and planting them in an isolated plot for seed and watching them closely, keeping a record of the performances of each ear with results, and cutting out all barren, weak and sickly stalks before they begin to tassel and scatter their pollen, saving the best and most perfect ears for seed, you will then have begun to improve your yields the same as we did forty-eight years ago, when we began the improvement of corn.

We fully recommend this variety for any county in Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, southern Wisconsin, Michigan and New York; also any part of Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and from there south to the coast. It is a splendid ensilage corn for states and localities farther north than those mentioned.

DESCRIPTION: The stalks grow from 8 to 12 feet high, dependent on the land—hill or bottom ground—strong and robust, very leafy, broad blades and plenty of them, making an excellent fodder or ensilage corn. Roots almost equal that of sorghum. Ears uniform in size and shape, cylindrical from butt to tip, running from 8 to 12 inches long and 7 to 8 inches in circumference, containing from sixteen to twenty rows solidly set on a medium small red cob, shelling 86 to 88 per cent grains and often more. Weighs out more than ordinary varieties, thus proving its solidity. It is a golden yellow and is the earliest maturing, large-eared yellow corn known, always making itself safely and beyond danger of frost in from 90 to 100 days. Our word for it, it will please you in every respect.

PRICE: Postpaid, by mail, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs., (will plant one acre), \$1.25; by freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, 80c; bu., \$2.75; 2 bu. or more at \$2.50 per bu.; 5 bu., \$2.50 per bu. Bags free f. o. b. Shenandoah. If wanted in ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices.

A SAMPLE OF MANY HUNDREDS OF APPRECIATED LETTERS WE'VE RECEIVED EVERY YEAR FROM PLEASED CUSTOMERS.

Nowata, Okla.

I bought \$75.00 worth of seeds from you two years ago and am pleased to state that I grew the finest crop of corn from your "PRIDE OF NISHNA," yellow, that was ever raised in this part of the country. Not only this, but I brought to this town the finest load of ear corn that ever come to this place before or since.

J. W. STAATS.

Hunt County, Texas.

I have not received your seed catalogue. Please send one by return mail.

The three bushels "PRIDE OF NISHNA" I got from you last spring, grew the best crop in Hunt county. We have had a series of dry seasons in Texas for three years, culminating in a general burn-out last year. Conditions for the preparation of the ground were never better. I plowed my ground early and continued to work it thoroughly—meantime sent to you for my seed. It came finer than silk, arriving March 1st, and I planted next day. We had practically no rain during the corn growing season. BUT I GOT SIXTY-FIVE BUSHELS PER ACRE FROM MY ENTIRE CROP OF 20 ACRES. Sure it is drouthproof.

JOHN A. ARNOLD.

Lake County, Ohio, Dec. 15.

Dear Sirs:—"The Pride of Nishna" seed corn I bought from you last spring was, part of it, planted May 20th, on sandy loam soil. The stand was perfect; matured Sept. 20th, yielding 100 bushels per acre. The remainder was planted May 28th, on clover sod, clay loam, yielding 120 bushels per acre; matured Oct. 15th. The cultivation was thorough, and until about the time it begun to tassel and silk it looked like it would be somewhat later than our native sorts, but it got there even with it and proved much the biggest yielder of anything we have grown.

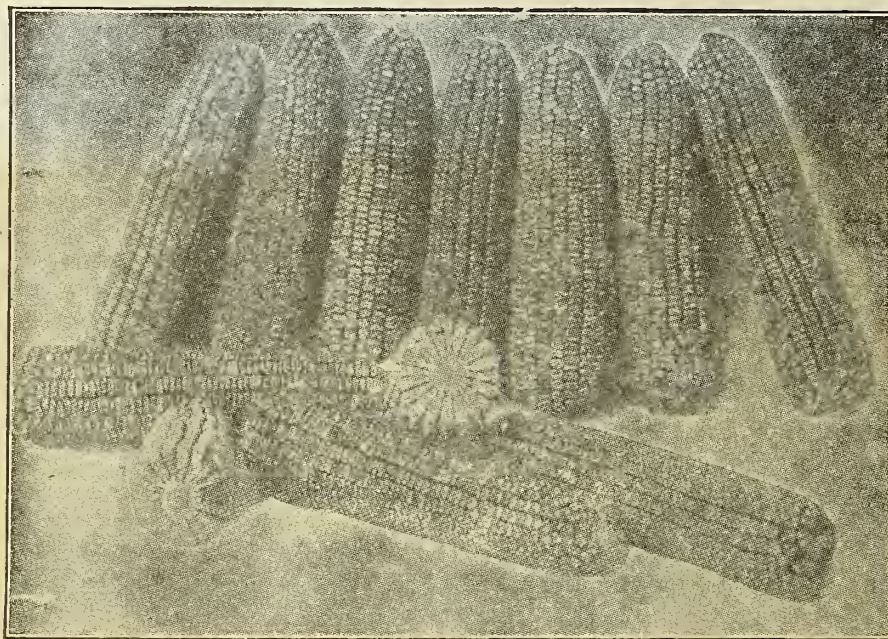
Yours truly,

J. SAWYER.

Earling Iowa, Jan. 21, 1915.

I have now been growing your DIAMOND, JOE'S BIG EARLY WHITE and PRIDE OF NISHNA for two years with splendid success and results. In 1913 I obtained a yield of 65 bushels per acre from Diamond Joe, and in 1914 I got 1,220 bushels off 15 acres. Pride of Nishna also gave a fine yield, as also did the new Alberta Oats.

HENRY M. HESSE.

RATEKIN'S MAMMOTH EARLY IOWA YELLOW DENT

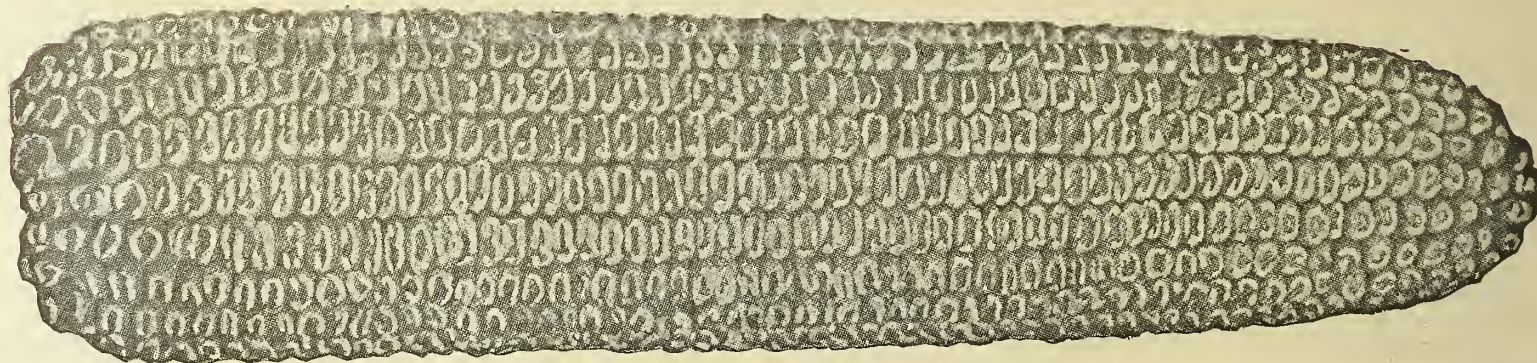
Ratekin's Mammoth Early Iowa Yellow Dent, "famous" for its Early Maturity and High Yielding Qualities.

RATEKIN'S MAMMOTH EARLY IOWA YELLOW DENT. The description of this corn consists of simple facts. The accompanying illustration is from a photograph which will give you a very accurate idea of the ears. Beautiful in its rich, golden yellow color and even size from butt to tip of ear. Certain in its early, quick growth and maturity. Stalks grow from 8 to 12 feet in height, dependent upon the land, upland or bottom. It is supported by a deep and spreading root system to support its large, strong, robust stalks, thus enabling it to resist heavy winds and not break over or blow down; ears run from 8 to 12 inches long, very solid, compact and symmetrical and containing 16 to 20 rows on a medium sized red cob; kernels of more than average depth; matures safely and soundly in 90 to 100 days, and is indeed properly named, "Mammoth Iowa Early Yellow Dent." There is none better—none that yields as large and matures so early. It's a variety we can fully recommend for any county in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Southern Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and South Dakota. Many fields have made yields of 70-80-90 and 100 bushels per acre.

PRICE: Postpaid, ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 65c; 7 lbs. (enough to plant one acre), \$1.25. By freight or express, not prepaid; Peck, 85c; 1 bu., \$3.00; 2 bu., \$2.95 per bu.; 15 bu., \$2.90 per bu. If wanted in the ear crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices.

Kossuth County, Iowa, Nov. 20, 1914. Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa. Gentlemen: I thought you might be interested to know what success I had from the five bushels of Mammoth Iowa Yellow Dent seed corn I obtained from you last spring. It was planted May 10th to 12th on 35 acres clover sod ground and had good cultivation and a favorable season and I have just husked and gathered 3,125 bushels of the finest, well matured corn I have grown in Northern Iowa in 20 years.

Very truly yours, JOHN N. LEVERTON.

SPECIMEN EAR, REID'S YELLOW DENT CORN

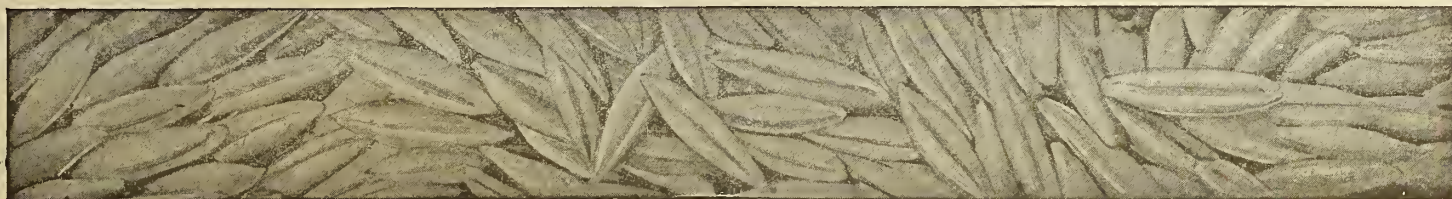
Reid's Yellow Dent—A Leading and Favorite Variety Through the Middle West.

REID'S YELLOW DENT. A thoroughbred yellow dent corn. If any corn can truly be called pedigreed, Reid's Yellow Dent Corn is certainly entitled to be known as such, as its history dates many years back. It has been bred up and selected with painstaking care to what is at the present time one of the best varieties of yellow corn grown. Ear medium in size, remarkably uniform, and of a bright yellow color, with solid, deep grain and small red cob. Has from 18 to 24 rows of kernels on the cob, 50 to 60 grains in the row, and is well filled over the ends, and especially the butt, leaving a small shank, which makes it a favorite with huskers. Best shredding sort, as it shatters the least of any by actual test.

In some of the principal corn growing states of the West it has no equal, and reports from many other states are very flattering. The Iowa Experiment Station report of 1910 gave Reid's Yellow Dent an average of 100 bushels per acre, while the Agricultural Students' Union of Ohio in 1913 gave it a yield of 14 per cent above all other varieties. As a winner of prizes from the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893, and at Western Corn Carnivals and shows down to the present time, it stands at the head.

PRICE: Postpaid, by mail, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), \$1.25. By freight or express, at purchaser's expense: Peck, 90c; bu., \$3.00; 2 bu., \$1.85 per bu.; 10 bu., \$2.75 per bu. Bags free, f. o. b. Shenandoah. If wanted in ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices. 5 bu. at 10 bu. prices.

RATEKIN'S SEED OATS



THE NEW ALBERTA CANADA OATS Make Big Yields and Big Money

WHAT THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE: The Biggest, Best and Grandest variety ever introduced into this country. A big, heavy oat weighting 45 to 50 lbs. per bushel and yielding 100 to 125 bushels per acre. They are a white oat, ripening early, but not as early as the New Kherson—are a strong heavy robust grower—big straw—stands up well on rich ground—are by far the heaviest yielding of all the white oats. The illustration above is a correct picture of these oat. They are a big fat kernel, big enough to please anyone looking for something a little better than anything ever seen in the oat line before—very long spreading head ranging from 12 to 18 inches long—some even longer—many heads containing 150 grains. While the price of this variety may seem high, they are the cheapest seed oats in the results of the crop any one can sow.

We have had a thousand farmers write us, when ordering Seed Oats, that they would order enough Alberta, Canada, grown Oats to sow 25, 50 or 100 acres, if it were not for the price.

The facts are. The cost of the seed has nothing to do with it. Any investment that will give two dollars for one is a good investment, whether it be for Seed Oats, Seed Corn, a horse, cow or any other investment.

We can confidently recommend these oats and assure our customers that they will fulfill to the full measure your best expectations. In fact, our of many thousands bushels we have sent out during the past seven years, WE HAVE NEVER HAD A COMPLAINT OR DISPLEASED CUSTOMER so far as we know.

EVERY FARMER SHOULD SOW AT LEAST TEN ACRES OF THESE OATS THIS YEAR. Get in shape to grow you own seed another year, and supply your neighbors with their seed at \$1.25 to \$1.50 per bushel.

PRICES: Pound 25c, postpaid. At purchaser's expense, express or freight: Peck 60c; ½ bu., \$1.00; 1 bu., \$2.00; 2 to 9 bu., \$1.90; 10 bu. and over, \$1.80 per bu. 25 to 50 bu., \$1.70 per bu. Sacks free.

Ratekin's Kherson Oats, Without a Spot, Without a Blemish, Without a Flaw

The New Kherson Oats are without doubt—without comparison—the best Early Oat ever introduced into this country. Best in every respect. They are the earliest to ripen. They are the most productive. They are rustproof. They are of short, stiff, straw and stand up on the richest of land. They are not affected by dry weather. They make themselves early in the season while the moisture and strength remains in the ground. They yield more per acre than the late, large varieties. They always make a certain crop, regardless of wet or dry weather. Nothing but a hail storm will prevent you from securing 100s bushels per acre.

The plant is a vigorous grower. The straw is short, and on the same land stands shorter than other Oats. The leaves are very broad and expose a large surface. The panicles are spreading. The berries are light yellow in color; small, but numerous, and have a very thin hull. They weigh well per bushel, and in this respect, as well as in yield per acre, they have led all other varieties at both the Iowa State Agricultural Experimental and Nebraska Stations in yield, by over 8 bushels per acre, each year for the past five year.

Our seed of this variety was secured from seed of the original importation, and is absolutely pure Kherson and choice stock.

PRICE: 1 bu., \$1.10 per bu.; 10 bu. and over, \$1.00 per bu.; 20 bu. and over, 95c per bu. Bags free, f. o. m. Shenandoah.

Ratekin's Texas Red Rust-Proof Oats, the best Oats Grown for the South, and a Good One for the North, East or West

We unqualifiedly recommend these Oats as being among the best of the best varieties, hardiest productiveness, and surest croppers under all conditions. Since these Oats have been grown here in the north, they have become more hardy and vigorous than the same variety grown in the mild climate of the South and give very much better yields and results than the southern grown, both in the North and in the South.

DESCRIPTION: The Texas Red Rustproof Oats grow in height 3½ to 4 feet tall, have a sprangle head well filled, often running 100 to 125 kernels to the head; also a splendid stooler. The grains or kernels are of a yellowish-red cast, with a husk extending well out over the tip ends. In brief, we can most heartily recommend these oats and their adaptability to any place where oats are grown, and especially recommend them to the farmers of Kansas, Missouri, Southern Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, and from there South. **PRICE:** \$1.10 per bu.; 10 bu. and over \$1.00 per bu. Bags free f. o. b. Shenandoah.

Ratekin's Big Banner 100 Bushel Oats

Are a variety of OUR OWN PRODUCTION originated UNDER THE SEED PATCH SYSTEM, and are the result of years of painstaking care in selection and propagating from select heads which have developed into the BEST AMERICAN GROWN VARIETY IN EXISTENCE. This is a BOLD ASSERTION, but is backed up from experience of over twenty thousand farmers who have grown them, having sent out over fifty thousand bushels, and have never had a complaint, but have had a thousand letters from those who have sown them, telling of the enormous yields obtained, ranging all the way from seventy-five to 125 bushels per acre and extolling them from every standpoint.

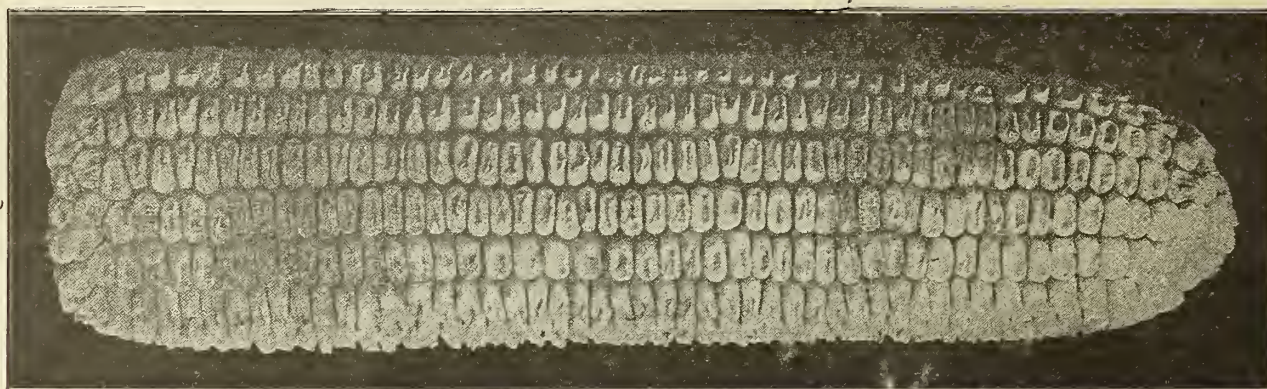
DESCRIPTION AND POINTS OF SUPERIORITY: First, these oats have a big, plump, white kernel and thin hull. Its quick, strong, robust growth. A shorter, stronger, stiffer straw than other varieties. Is vigorous root system, enabling it to resist dry weather. Its early ripening. Its freedom from rust, blight or smut. Its large kernels being solid and full of meat, almost as heavy as wheat, combining all the best qualities of all THE BEST VARIETIES IN EXISTENCE.

We fully recommend these oats to every farmer, and can assure all that you will have no failures in your oat crop when you sow these oats.

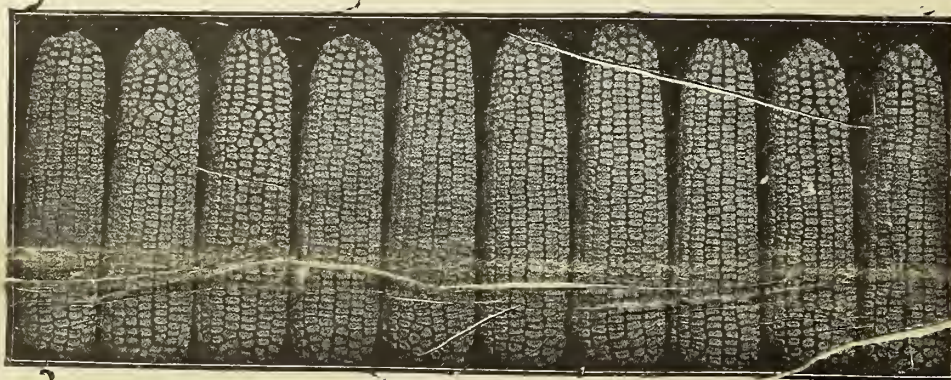
PRICE: Peck, 40c; mu., \$1.25; 2½ bu., \$3.00; 10 bu. and more at \$1.10 per bu.

ENCLOSED HERewith FIND DETAILED PRICE LIST ON ALL LEADING FARM SEEDS, PRESERVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

RATEKIN'S EARLY GOLD STANDARD LEAMING



THE KING OF CATTLE CORN. This corn was originated by Mr. J. S. Leaming in Ohio in 1826, and was introduced into this part of Iowa forty-five years ago, by pioneer settlers who came here from Ohio. It is known here and more often called the "Cattle King Corn" than it is the Leaming. Being rich in protein and oil, it is the ideal from a feeder's standpoint. There is none better or yielding more bushels. Ratekin's Early Gold Standard Leaming is a pure and distinct variety of beautiful golden yellow. It grows a stalk 8 to 12 feet, very profuse, broad blades, making it one of the best ensilage and fodder varieties. In addition to its large grain yields it is grown very extensively in the East, New England, New York, Pennsylvania and Northern Ohio and Indiana, also in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas, for ensilage and fodder purposes, of which it make and gives a wonderful supply of blades and leaves. Prices: same as PRIDE OF NISHNA AND SILVER MINE.



The Earliest to Mature; the Purest Yellow; the Deepest Grain; the Best Medium Early; Between the Standard Field Varieties and Extra Early Sorts.

IOWA GOLD MINE. CORN is more widely known than any other variety grown and has made the state of Iowa famous as the mother of this wonderful early variety of yellow corn. It is listed by all dealers and planted in every state in the Union and in Central Europe, South America, South Africa, Australia, everywhere that corn is planted or grown.

DESCRIPTION: It is between the standard field varieties, such as we grow for 100 bushel crops in the central corn belt of the west, and the extra early sorts that mature in 80 to 90 days in the extreme northern corn growing boundaries. Gold mine is a favorite in its class with every farmer who ever planted it, ripening a few days later than Pride of North. Ears are medium in size and very symmetrical; color as yellow as gold itself; grain is deep, cob small. Seventy pounds in the ear will shell out 62 to 63 pounds of shelled corn, leaving but 7 to 8 pounds for cob. It is very free from barren stalks; ears run from 8 to 10 inches long, thus is very heavy yielder for medium between extra early and standard varieties. The above are honest, fair descriptions, and we are sure this corn will not disappoint your best expectations. Price: Same as PRIDE OF NISHNA and IOWA SILVER MINE.



JOSEPH R. RATEKIN

Is not delivered in five Days
Please Notify us on form 1540.
RATEKIN SEED HOUSE, Inc.
Shenandoah, Iowa.

1c PAID
Shenandoah,
Iowa.
PERMIT NO. 3

TO

P. O.

County

State

R. F. D.

Box No.

Street or No.

Plant Index

RATEKIN SEED HOUSE

SHENANDOAH, IOWA

Dear Sir:--This is to thank you and to say that we are pleased to have the opportunity to mail you a copy of our Seed Catalog, also some other printed matter, as well as two or three samples of seed. We are only sorry we don't know what kind of seeds you are most interested in so that we could send samples. But in our catalog we have tried to give honest and accurate descriptions of all important seeds and varieties, with such information and suggestions as may be of interest to our customers. But after looking over our catalog if in doubt about any thing pertaining to the seed line, or if you have any questions to ask, write us. We will be pleased to answer them or give you any information we can.

While we grow or handle every kind of farm, grass, clover, alfalfa and garden seed grown, worth planting, also forage and root plants, we have made the growing and improvement in all kinds of SEED CORN A SPECIALTY FOR THE PAST THIRTY-THREE YEARS, and perhaps grow and handle more seed corn than any other firm in Iowa or any other state, as we have a well established mail order trade throughout every state in the Union, as we grow all the earliest varieties suited for the extreme north, Central Western Corn Belt states and the Southern Cotton states. In addition to our extensive retail mail order trade direct with the farmers and planters, we supply a large number of the leading and best seed houses and seed dealers of the country in car lots and less with their seed for their local and mail order trade.

By reason of our long experience and the experiences of thousands of our farmer customers, all over the entire country, we are often able to suggest and assist our friends and customers in their selections, and are always glad to do so where any are in doubt, realizing that the success of our customers from our seed means much to us in future trade, and we are not at all free from selfish motives along this line.

All our Seed Corn was and is planted from the most choice and thoroughbred strains and varieties, early and on good land, by our best corn growing farmers. Added to this the past season was one of the most ideal for corn growing we have had in the past twenty-five years. By reason of these favorable conditions all our seed corn crops were ripened, thoroughly matured and dry before frost or freeze, and since harvested it has been kept bone dry, as dry as a powder house. And we are pleased to say and assure our trade and customers, both dealer and planter, that we have never had a better, more choice grade and quality of seed corn to offer than we have this year. Every test made from the sack such as we send out has shown a good strong healthy germination of from 96 to 100%, which is as near perfect as any reasonable farmer or planter can expect. In short, all our corn is carefully selected, hand picked ear by ear, and no expense spared to make it satisfactory to the most critical farmer, "the man who plants the corn." It is SEED CORN, not Elevator Corn for seed.

Look our catalog over carefully, examine it closely and then sit down and make up your orders for such seeds as you are going to want for the coming season. Do it today, don't wait until you are ready to plant or sow, but let us have your orders at once. They will have our prompt and careful attention and will be started at once or at such time as you may designate and we will otherwise try to serve you in a manner that will please you.

Very truly yours,

RATEKIN SEED HOUSE,

By _____



RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE.

Established 1884

ORDER SHEET

**Every Order, Large or Small, will
Receive Careful Attention**

Receive Careful Attention

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa

Amount Enclosed

	Dollars	Cts
P. O. Order.....		
Express Order.....		
Bank Draft.....		
Check.....		
Cash.....		
PostageStamps.....		
Total.....		

P. O. Order.....

Express Order.

Bank Draft.		
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Check

Cash.....
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PostageStamps
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Room for the rest of order on the other side.

RATEKINS' CHOICE, HIGH GRADE FIELD SEEDS, 1917

All seed delivered free on board cars, Shenandoah, Iowa, bags included; purchaser paying transportation charges. If you don't wish the seed shipped at once, send us a small deposit, to show good faith, and we will reserve the seed for you at the prices here quoted, shipping when desired upon receipt of the balance due. **PRICES ARE STRICTLY NET. SPOT CASH AND NO DISCOUNT.**

RETURN THIS LIST WITH YOUR ORDER, TO SECURE THE SPECIAL PRICES HERE QUOTED. If the time limit has expired before you are ready to order—send for latest Field Seed Quotations, as you know that prices quoted on all items on this list are subject to market changes.

Lawn Grass Mixture

Ratekin's Lawn Grass Mixture produces a beautiful velvety lawn. This is the best mixture of lawn grasses to be obtained anywhere at any price. Our experience of many years has given us intimate knowledge of grasses. PRICE—By mail postpaid, lb 40c; by express or freight at purchaser's expense, lb 30c; 4 lbs \$1.10; 10 lbs \$2.75.

Sudan Grass and Billion Dollar Grass is the greatest discovery of the twentieth century. If you are going to be short on hay dont fail to plant these two annual grasses. They have both come to stay and to put an end to scarcity of hay on every American farm.

Sudan Grass, Iowa grown, prepaid, lb 50c; not prepaid, lb 40c.
Billion Dollar Grass, prepaid, lb 15c; 50 lbs or over not prepaid 7½c.

Best grade.....	Per Bu	2 00
New Siberian (best grade)		2 00
Hog or Broom Corn		2 25
Pencilaria,20c lb prepaid; 10c lb not prepaid		
White Wonder		3 00

Field Seed Flax No. 1	Per Bu
Castor Beans..... (Write for Prices)	3 75
White Peanuts	3 25
Dwarf Essex Rape.... (5 to 25 lbs) 10c per lb not prepaid; 100 lbs 9 00	
Sand Vetches..... 35c lb prepaid; not prepaid, per lb 25c	
Russian Sunflower..... 20c lb prepaid, not prepaid per lb 10c	

	Per	Ed
Bliss Red Tribmpn	2	50
Early Ohio	2	20
Early Rose	2	20
Eureka	2	20
Irish Cobbler	2	20
Carmen No. 3 (late)	2	20
Rural New Yorker (late)	2	20
Sir Walter Raleigh (late)	2	20

Red	Per Bu
Yellow	5 25
White Botto m.....	5 25
	6 25

ONION SETS AND POTATOES TRAVEL AT PURCHASER'S RISK OF FREEZING. BE SURE TO STATE DATE YOU WANT US TO MAKE SHIPMENT.

All Varieties.....50c per pound, prepaid

Red Mangels and Golden Tankered, 50c lb prepaid, 40c lb not prepaid

Mastadon Stock Carrots \$1.00 lb prepaid, 90c lb not prepaid

It is the greatest labor and seeding invention of the age. The working principles are a novelty of simplicity. It is so simple in construction and perfect in operation that a boy can operate it. It will sow Alfalfa, Timothy, Wheat, Oats, Rye, Buckwheat, Hungarian, Redtop, Turnip, Millet, Kaffir, Cane, Cotton and all other grains and seeds perfectly even, any desired amount per acre, and from thirty to sixty acres per day. Full instructions and directions on every machine. The most astonishing feature is the cheapness of a machine so useful and the valuable service it gives. Every farmer should have one. We have sold hundreds of them and in no instance have they failed to please our customers and give entire satisfaction. **PRICE \$1.50.**

Prices named on this Price List supercede Catalog Prices where there is any difference. All other Catalog Prices Hold Good.

Big Seed Catalog FREE for the asking. Samples on Request.

These Prices hold good to April 1st. (Subject to Stock Unsold.)

Address: RATEKIN SEED HOUSE, SHENANDOAH, PAGE COUNTY, IOWA

